

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 AGR-05 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9262

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR

SUBJECT: FAO WORKING PARTY OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON BANANAS

REF: (A) STATE 050403, (B) QUITO 1585

1. ECUADOR DOES NOT OPPOSE INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY AGREEMENT FOR BANANAS. IN FACT, ECUADOR PROBABLY GREATLY PREFERS EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD STABILIZE MARKETING TO MEMBERSHIP IN UPEB (UNION OF BANANA EXPORTING COUNTRIES).

2. PURPOSE OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING OF 11 IMPORTING AND EXPORTING COUNTRIES TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR JULY TO DISCUSS TERMS AND STRUCTURE OF PROPOSED AGREEMENT. BY HOSTING MEETING, ECUADOR HOPES TO PROVE TO OTHER PRODUCING COUNTRIES ESPECIALLY OF UPEB ITS SERIOUS DESIRE FOR SUCH AN AGREEMENT. COUNTRY ALSO SEEKS TO PROVE POINT THAT TRANSNATIONAL COMPANIES DO

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NOT DIRECT ECUADOR'S INTERNAL BANANA POLICY.

3. PROBLEM FOR ECUADOREAN OFFICIALS IS MORE ONE OF INTERNAL SITE SELECTION. SITES PROPOSED ARE GUAYAQUIL OR QUITO. BOTH HAVE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROPONENTS AND OPPONENTS.

4. MEETING NOT EXPECTED BY ECUADOREANS TO BE FORUM FOR PRESSURE FROM UPEB. SPECIAL DESIRES OF GROUP NOT ON AGENDA. ORGANIZATIONS HAS NO REPRESENTATION AS SUCH BUT ONE MEMBER COUNTRY HAS DELEGATE.

5. ECUADOR HAS OPPOSED STRATEGY MEETING OF PRODUCING COUNTRIES PRIOR TO JULY MEETING OF COMMITTEE OF 11 SINCE THEY BELIEVE THIS WOULD HAVE UNDESIRABLE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS.

6. CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS LEADING TO CONSIDERATION OF ECUADOR AS HOST COUNTRY AS FOLLOWS: DURING MEETING IN IVORY COAST LAST YEAR, DECISION WAS MADE TO CONVENE FAO WORKING PARTY OF 11 COUNTRIES IN EARLY 1976. FAO REPRESENTATIVES LATER INFORMALLY INQUIRED ECUADOREAN MINISTRY COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (.MICEI) OFFICIALS WHERE THEY WANTED MEETING HELD. OFFICIALS SUGGESTED ROME, PRIMARILY TO AVOID SITE SELECTION PROBLEM. DURING FEBRUARY VISIT ECUADOR, MULHERIN FAO DISCUSSED MEETING SITE WITH RECENTLY INSTALLED MINISTER COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY WHO, WITHOUT CONSULTING SUBORDINATE OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR EARLIER DECISION, STRONGLY RECOMMENDED GUAYAQUIL AS MEETING SITE. AFTER RETURNING ROME, MULHERIN INFORMED MICEI OFFICIALS SELECTION OF ECUADOR AS MEETING SITE DEPENDED ON ACCEPTANCE BY MAJORITY OF 11 COUNTRIES. IF MAJORITY PREFERS, ECUADOR WILL MAKE FORMAL REQUEST TO FAO ROME TO HOST MEETING. FAO WILL THEN FORMALLY INVITE COMMITTEE MEMBERS INCLUDING US TO ATTEND.
BREWSTER

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